(e) The population criteria adopted by the Delimitation Commission in the delimitation exercise is supported by the provisions contained in Section 8 of the Delimitation Act, 2002.

(f) The Government and the Delimitation Commission receive numerous suggestions/objections from different quarters of people regarding delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies as well as on the principles and procedures of the delimitation exercise. All of them are duly considered while delimiting a State into territorial constituencies.

Judicial Reforms

1404. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Reforms Commission headed by Shri Veerappa Moily has made any recommendations in the matter of judicial reforms;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined these recommendations;

(d) the number of recommendations, if any, accepted by Government; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Fourth Report of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission on "Ethics in Governance" has given "Ethical framework for the Judiciary" as one of the recommendations.

(b) The salient features of the recommendation are as follows:

(i) A National Judicial Council (NJC) should be constituted, in line with universally accepted principles where the appointment of members of the judiciary should be by a collegium having representation of the executive, legislature and judiciary.

(ii) The National Judicial Council should be authorized to lay down the code of conduct for judges, including the subordinate judiciary.

(iii) The National Judicial Council should be entrusted with the task of recommending appointments of Supreme Court and High Court Judges. It should also be entrusted the task of oversight of the judges, and should be empowered to enquire into alleged misconduct and impose minor penalties. It can also recommend removal of a judge if so warranted.

(iv) Based on the recommendations of the NJC, the President should have the powers to remove a Supreme Court or High Court Judge.

(v) Article 124 and 217 of the Constitution may be amended to provide for the National Judicial Council.

(vi) A Judge of the Supreme Court should be designated as the Judicial Values Commissioner. He/she should be assigned the task of enforcing the code of conduct. Similar arrangement should also be made in the High Court.

(c) to (e) An empowered Committee has been constituted to examine these recommendations and give its report.

Women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies

1405. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies in the years 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) whether any law is going to be enacted to enhance the degree of representation in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies; and

(c) if so, by when and upto what extent?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The percentage of women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies in the years 2005-07 is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) The Government is making all-out efforts to arrive at a consensus on the provisions of the Women Reservation Bill before the said Bill is introduced in the Parliament. It is not possible to indicate any time-frame in this regard.